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LB 543

SENATOR BOURNE: Perhaps.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: An attempt to do indirectly what cannot be done directly. (Laughter) Thank you, Senator Bourne. That was for Senator Redfield; I didn't want her interrogation of me to have been in vain. I wanted to demonstrate why she did what she did to me. But, members of the Legislature, this is an issue which I believe I will prevail on. As a matter of fact, it's such a juicy issue, I believe the American Civil Liberties Union will be interested. There are other organizations that believe in retaining the separation between church and state. I cannot say no program exists like this in the country, I cannot say that, but I can say I'm not aware of any other state in the country creating a fund exclusively for the use of private and parochial schools. I'm not aware of a state tying the amount of appropriations to two public school funds to the amount that these parochial schools get. I'm not aware of that. The Governor has endorsed this operation and this practice by recommending an across-the-board 5 percent or 6.5 percent increase in funding for all three of these funds, acknowledging that he knows there is a private and parochial school fund which is kept exempt from utilization by public school students. So, I'm trying, to the extent that I can, to compile a record, a legislative history, that discloses the knowledge of all the members of the Legislature that there is this fund which is exclusively for the use of private and parochial school students. It was not something that happened through inadvertence. On General File I attacked it, on Select File, on Final Reading.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: (Gavel)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It was demonstrated that what I've said about the nature of these two funds is true. Senator Wickersham handed out information and discussed the disparity that takes place because of the skewed manner of making funds available to students through the three programs that we have. I believe at some point along the way Senator Raikes had comments about this program. Whereas Senator Wickersham...I meant Senator Wehrbein didn't rattle around on this pro...these programs, he did rattle around on the teacher loan forgiveness program. So when we put